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# Unknown to Jim, 17 March 1961

(Author Unknown)

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March 17, 1961

Dear Jim,

I noticed in Wednesday's State Times that you have again yielded to the temptation to write a letter to the editor, and without taking the precautionary step of signing it "Publius".

Unfortunately, I have not heard Mr. Lawman (an appropriate name - must have taken it from a passion play). When he spoke in Natchez I was unable to attend the meeting, so I enjoyed very much reading your remarks. The political situation in Mississippi must be at a low ebb when your political opinions as so trenchly stated in your letter are almost completely in accord with mine. Of course, I understand one grows more conservative with age.

The Barten case which covered the front page of the same issue as carried your letter has greatly disturbed me. In fact - it has me mad as hell. Democracy has almost reached perfection when we require a college student to

prove his innocence by taking a lie detector test. This is truly a great procedural reform for our system of justice. However, the charges are so serious we may be justified in suspending his civil rights (I use the term in its true legal sense). Surely, one considered "promising" by the editor of the Atlanta Constitution should not be protected by the U.S. Constitution, the Mississippi Constitution, Mississippi Statutes and 1000 years of common law heritage.

If the newspapers are correct, the charges against Barton are as vicious and irresponsible as any I have ever seen. Those making them certainly lack the most fundamental grasp of constitutional principles.

Perhaps you and the other "new dealers" will have to enter into a truce with us classical conservatives so we can present a united front. After this battle is won and we have secured the right to disagree, then we can return to enlightened debate between liberals and true conservatives.